(b) whether in order to save on the cost of establishing consulates in many US cities for issue of visas, Government propose to appoint private agencies in these cities to dispense visas; and

(c) whether US, UK and Australia have outsourced their visa centres for Indian tourists to private companies in Indian cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per information gathered from local Embassies/High Commissions of USA, UK and Australia in Delhi, certain visa related services viz., dissemination of information/appointments/collection of application forms have been outsourced by them.

Loss of lives during robbery in Delhi

3103. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons, both civilian and police personnel, who lost their lives and were injured in a glaring robbery and shoot out case in Ashok Vihar area of Delhi in June last;

(b) the number of culprits involved in the case apprehended; and

(c) whether any compensation/awards have been paid to the policemen and civilians who helped to nab the culprits, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) One civilian died and four police personnel were injured in the incident of robbery and shoot out case in Ashok Vihar of Delhi on 23rd June, 2005. Delhi Police has arrested three persons in connection with this incident.

(c) Three constables have been given out of turn promotion on ad-hoc basis, while out of turn promotion on ad-hoc basis to one SI has been approved by Commissioner of Police. A commendation roll with cash of Rs. 5000/-each has been awarded to the six civilians by the Commissioner of Police.